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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the above date. The Chairman of the Committee being absent Mr. Hamburg, President of the Society presided.

There were present the following:-

Mr. A. V. Hamburg in the Chair, Rev. Edmund Brown, Mr. J. V. West, Mrs. Eugene Gregory, Mr. O. M. Bonfield, Mrs. W. J. Green, Mr. D. Brown, Mr. R. W. Stewart, Mr. C. M. Brown, Rev. E.S.A. Mrs. M. Vandervall, Miss H. B. Pendleton, Mr. Eugene Kinzie of New York and Mr. Conner of Chicago.

Miss A. L. Brown, the secretary, was also absent, and the president asked Miss Pendleton the Executive Secretary, to take the minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. In the absence of Mr. MacDougall the treasurer, who is on his vacation, Miss Pendleton read the Treasurer's Statement covering receipts and expenditures to date. This report was accepted and ordered to be filed with the minutes.

With regard to the matter of the rent for 144 Livingston St. the gas range, Mr. Bonfield reported that the gas range had been returned and that matter adjusted. Miss Pendleton reported that \$20.00 expended at the last meeting had been paid to Mr. Bonfield. Mr. Bonfield reported that the names proposed for the members of the Committee on Employment and Training had never been brought before the Committee for action.

The Secretary was asked to read the minutes in regard to this. She found that at the meeting held March 5th, it was arranged that the organization of the Committee on Employment and Training had apparently been left to a Committee of three, as the minutes reads as follows:

Miss Pendleton suggested that the Chairman (i.e. Rev. A.M. Stubblebine), the Executive Secretary and Mr. Bonfield, or two others, to be considered by the committee on training.

The Chair then suggested that as the committee has never met it should be called together, and advised Mr. Bonfield to

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so as soon as possible.

A reported of the meeting at East Orange was then called. The Chairman of the meeting reported that he had been unavoidably absent from the meeting, but Mr. Jones of New York who was present was asked to give his impression of the meeting. He said he thought there was an excellent attendance and that on the whole it had been helpful. The meeting was held in the High School building in East Orange. Dr. George E. Cannon especially made an excellent address and put before the meeting what the problem was.

The following speakers gave addresses:-

Rev. Eugene Kinckle Jones of New York, Rev. McQuilkin of East Orange, Dr. George E. Cannon, Miss Oley Stratton, Mr. A. W. MacGill and Rev. J. H. Hughes.

The chief criticism of the meeting was that there were so few white people present.

The Secretary was asked to report upon the money collected at this meeting, and said that only twenty dollars and some odd cents had been collected.

Mr. Jones also advised that to interest more white people in the League, it would be well to have meetings at different times under the auspices of the white churches, who will invite their own members to present the problem of the Negro in our communities. The Wandervall of Orange endorsed this plan heartily. Mr. Jones spoke of a meeting of the White Plains Church recently in which there were one hundred people present only twenty-five of whom were colored. Mr. Jones was one of the speakers.

As a reporter of the Executive Secretary, Miss Pendleton stated that she had no formal written report to present, and that Miss Stratton is doing good work in taking up the problems as they appear. The following three cases were cited as samples of our problems, and to show that the question of alma-giving has little to do with it.

Case 1. The attention of the Society has been called to a young colored girl now in the hospital with an illegitimate baby. The Florence Critteron Home has been asked to take her, but refused to do so, saying that they have no room for colored girls.

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Case 2. The problem of another young girl who came from Virginia two months ago to get work here in Newark. She fell in with a bad group, was sent by her employer, a woman of ill repute, to a house on Academy Street. This house was raided and the girl was sent to the Detention House as a material witness. We do not yet know enough about the facts of the case to know whether the girl should be gotten out on bail or not.

Case 3. Is that of a family who should be returned to their home in the South. We have only half this amount to do this. When the Overseer of the Poor was asked to do so refused, saying the matter had to be brought before the whole committee, whereupon a hearing was given. Miss Stratton and Miss Robinson appeared before the committee and the committee referred it to the Legal Department of the Poor & Aids Committee, where it will probably sleep peacefully.

The Secretary stated that the chief object of the meeting was to consider the appointment of an Executive Secretary. Mr. Mace of New York was especially present to day in order to bring before the committee the recommendations of a young man who he has recently heard of, who might be persuaded to come here. Miss Pendleton stated it seems to her that the time has come to engage a secretary, and that as we are affiliated with the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, we should trust to their judgment in the matter.

The question was discussed by Mr. C. M. Brown and Rev. Edmund Brown, who seemed to feel that it was too soon to engage a secretary.

Mr. H. V. Stewart also discussed the matter, and thought it should be done as soon as possible and stated that the League would not lose the present Executive Secretary's services he felt sure.

A motion was made by Mr. C. M. Brown and duly seconded that that engagement of the new secretary be put off until the fall.

In the course of the discussion Mr. Faust the General Secretary of the Orange Associated Charities, said that the chief feeling was that we did not have enough money to do this. He also said that we use a different psychology in getting money for social work than we do for the ordinary business proposition. In other words we haven't enough money and we have the right man, the fact that we have the right man brings the money.

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Mr. Hamburg, the president, gave some sound advice as to the absolute necessity in looking before we leap in this matter, and he thought it would be most unwise to engage a secretary for a whole year with the understanding that his salary was to be paid for the whole of that time whether he made good or not. His salary should probably be from \$1200. to \$1500. a year. Mr. Hamburg reminded the members of the committee that it must be actually forthcoming. Mr. Jones of New York stated that the secretary is responsible for getting the money. It would be a simple matter to engage him by the month as there are twenty-two persons engaged in that way in the Urban League in New York, and the money is always forthcoming. Mr. Jones also said that as this prospective secretary would probably not be needed until the Fall, the National League gladly offers him employment in their office until September. In this way he will get an insight into the work of the League, especially on the financial side.

Mrs. V. J. Green said that in her judgement it would be very unwise to engage someone that was not from New Jersey, for she felt sure that there were plenty of men from this state capable of doing the work. Mr. Jones stated that this young man in mind, is from New Jersey. The Rev. R. D. Brown stated that he thought it was a narrow minded policy to insist that such a worker should be from the same community in which he was born and bred.

Mr. Bonfield's motion was then put to the vote and lost. Mr. R. D. Brown then offered the following motion after some further discussion and suggestions from the president. "Resolved that a committee of three be appointed by the president to engage an Executive Secretary for the month beginning the 1st of September at a salary not to exceed \$100." This motion was seconded by Miss Pendleton and put to the vote and passed, all those present voting for it except Mrs. Green.

Mr. C. W. Brown proposed that Mr. J. M. Vandervall be asked to organize Auxiliaries during the summer, and that his expenses be paid, Miss Pendleton explained that Mr. Vandervall was already authorized to do this, and that at a previous meeting it was decided that no money should be paid at this time for administrative purposes.

As it was over the hour the Chair decided not to discuss this matter further, and the meeting was adjourned.

*Helen B. Pendleton
Sec. pro tem.*

P. S. to Meeting of July 18th, 1917.

Report of the Committee appointed at the Executive Committee meeting of the Negro Welfare League July 17, 1917.

Immediately after the meeting the Committee consisting Dr. Alexander, Mrs. Eugene Gregory and Miss Pendleton met 13 Central Ave. in conference with Mr. Ashby and Mr. Eugene McKie Jones of the National Urban League of New York.

Mrs. Gregory moved and Dr. Alexander seconded that Ashby be asked to be the Executive Secretary of the League \$100. a month. Mr. Ashby expressed his willingness to do on the terms made by the Executive Committee Meeting, and he was asked to take charge the 1st of September.

Henry B. Pendleton
Sec. pro. tem.